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LYON COUNTY



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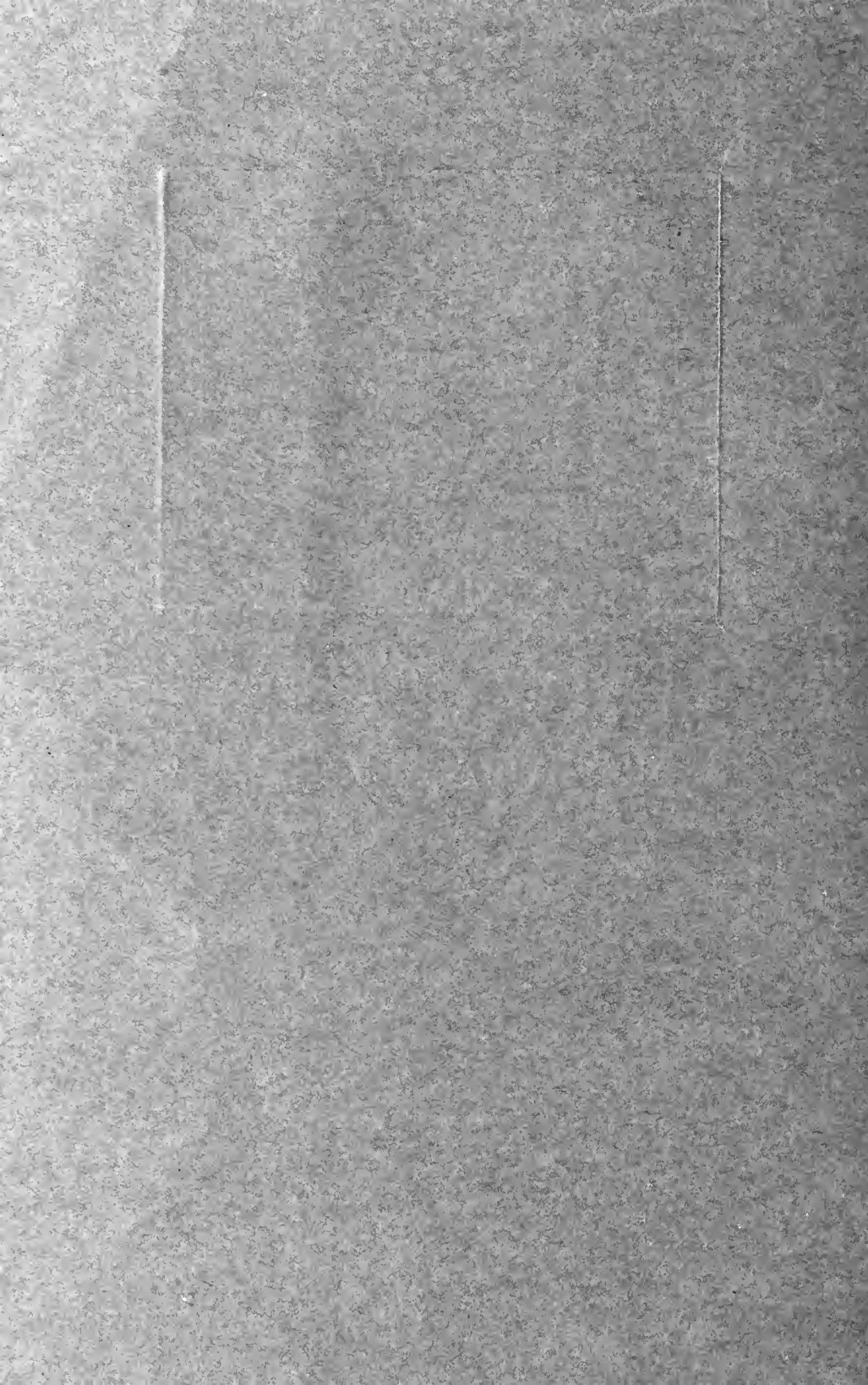
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CANOEING ON WALKER RIVER, LYON COUNTY, NEVADA

# LYON COUNTY NEVADA, U. S. A.

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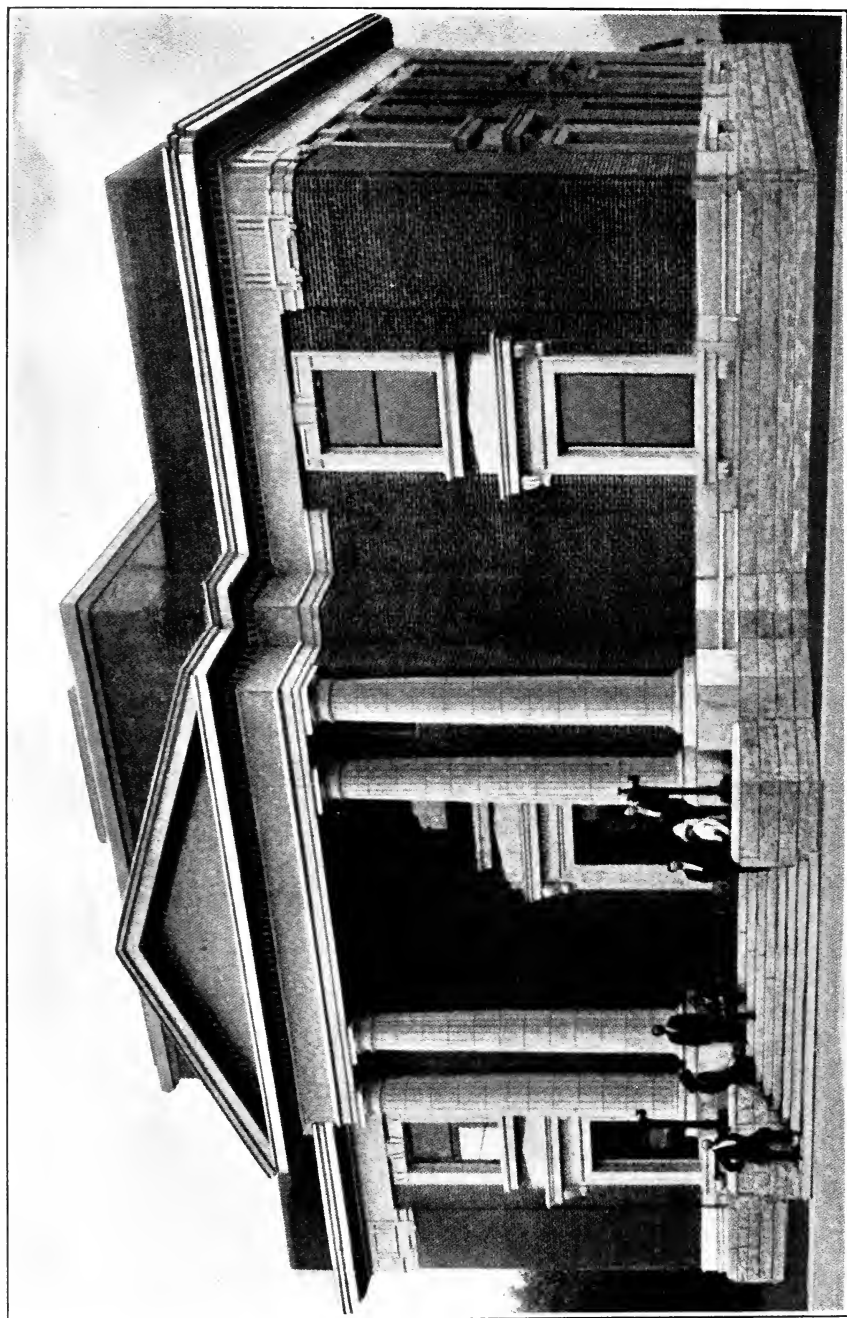
# LYON COUNTY

WHERE IT IS, AND WHAT IT CONTAINS: CLOSE TO  
CALIFORNIA, MADE UP OF RICH VALLEYS AND  
MINERAL-LADEN HILLS, IT STILL HAS  
AVAILABLE LANDS AT REASONABLE  
PRICES, AND IS AN IDEAL  
HOMING SPOT

*by* CORA FAY WHITE



NEVADA, U. S. A.



LYON COUNTY COURT HOUSE, YERINGTON, NEVADA



## LYON COUNTY, NEVADA



A LITTLE PAPOOSE

LYON COUNTY, Nevada, seems—to the understanding—but the fulfillment of Emerson's theory of the law of compensation; for—far removed from the arid parts of the State—Lyon County, just over the California border line, is made up of rich valleys bound together by chains of equally rich mountains, all pregnant with abundant produce, and still more pregnant with vast and superior possibilities as shall be proved if they be properly prospected, developed and conserved.

The old Nevada of Mark Twain and Brete Harte has long since passed away; the *boom* Nevada of Aurora and Comstock days has ceased to be; but THE NEW NEVADA, for which Lyon County stands as a fitting symbol, has arrived with her variety of resources—hence her problems: for privileges always entail responsibilities.

This county has a population of only 4000 people, and might with ease have ten times as many, for, at present, she averages less than three people to each square mile. She has about 100,000 acres under cultivation—in a way—and fully as many more that might be utilized for agricultural purposes when water is once supplied it; and about one-half of this latter area is soon to be watered by a big irrigation project now under way. This surveyed project will draw its waters from the lower end of Bridgeport Valley, thus impounding the waters of East Walker River.

Regarding other possible projects, the State Engineer has this to say: "The Alkali Lake Reservoir is one of the most feasible sites remaining in the State of Nevada, in fact, in the entire West, for its size. The cost per acre for it would be far below the average cost of Government reclamation schemes or of private schemes which have already been carried to successful completion." This is to show that all our sites, as well as all of our land and water have not been utilized.

Lands of various kinds are at present available throughout this country; lands suited to one's needs as well as to one's finances. One may purchase, outright, improved lands, in which instance more money will be required and a less acreage is necessary to obtain fair results; much so-called

improved land is in the hands of back-number farmers who have never made the land produce what it should, and who are willing to part with their holdings at fair prices. Then there are the newer and unimproved selections to be had at less expense, but requiring clearing and developing in every sense. This is a plain statement of actual conditions, that no one may be misled or misinformed regarding chances here—which are, in reality, both rare and abundant.

During 1913 Lyon County produced 1000 tons of barley, 50 tons of onions, 20,000 tons of potatoes, 100,000 tons of alfalfa, 175,000 pounds of butter, 100,000 pounds of honey, and a quarter million pounds of wool. Besides all this, beef, mutton and hides were supplied in large quantities; and 1913 was not a “bumper” year by any means!

Yet, with all this generous output, it is safe to estimate that this county has not yet reached 25% of her final efficiency; that, normally, she should attain fully four times her present economic utility. These modest estimates are confirmed by the most conservative and well-informed investigators who fully realize that the farmers here have not all attained even an average degree of proficiency in their vocation.

### THE PIONEERS

This particular part of Nevada was settled but sparsely about a half-century ago, chiefly by those who crossed over the plains in search of gold, or who came up from the Coast during palmy mining days.

It was the wise ones amongst these wanderers who discovered that not alone in her hills did riches wait, but that at the roots of the sage gold was to be had for the digging; that there was a wealth in her sunshine, her streams and her soil, greater, even, than under her hills—and that was great! And to these sterling pioneers, in payment for their faithful endeavor and their unflagging perseverance, came fortunes both material and mental; *for this is a land that breeds peace and contentment!*

These early pioneers demonstrated what might be done in this far and fruitful West! They exploited the range, dammed the streams and directed the waters from the mountain springs; they cleared small fields, installed primitive irrigation systems, and, by their toil, wrested—from what must have at first seemed an almost hopeless situation—wealth: wealth in good health and beautiful homes.

Grazing was, of course, the chief industry of those times, and early settlers warily acquired large tracts of land whereon to herd their immense numbers of sheep and cattle; but now that the Government has gradually cut down these grazing privileges, some of these estates are being subdivided into smaller holdings for agricultural purposes; *for, as a farming*

land, Lyon County will eventually make her record to the world which at present knows so little about her. Heretofore, grazing prevailed; now farming—practical, intensive farming, must be developed.

As outsiders have casually drifted into these fertile regions—for this county has never been advertised in the least—a demand for land has been created. It is to satisfy this demand that large irrigation projects have been completed, that others are now under course of construction, and that others await capital and promoters. *For there are thousands and thousands of acres containing proper soil elements under ideal climatic conditions, that only await the magic touch of water to cause them to spring into life with bud and blossom and fruit; for, given the climate—and Nevada's excels—proper soil elements for plant growth, together with water, do constitute agricultural land in the best sense.*

These agricultural lands, too, possess the rare quality of constant recuperative power; after many years of use they show little deterioration, and by crop rotation their fertility is practically perpetual; and with the exceeding wide range for all temperature-climate crops the opportunity for rotation may be made most profitable.

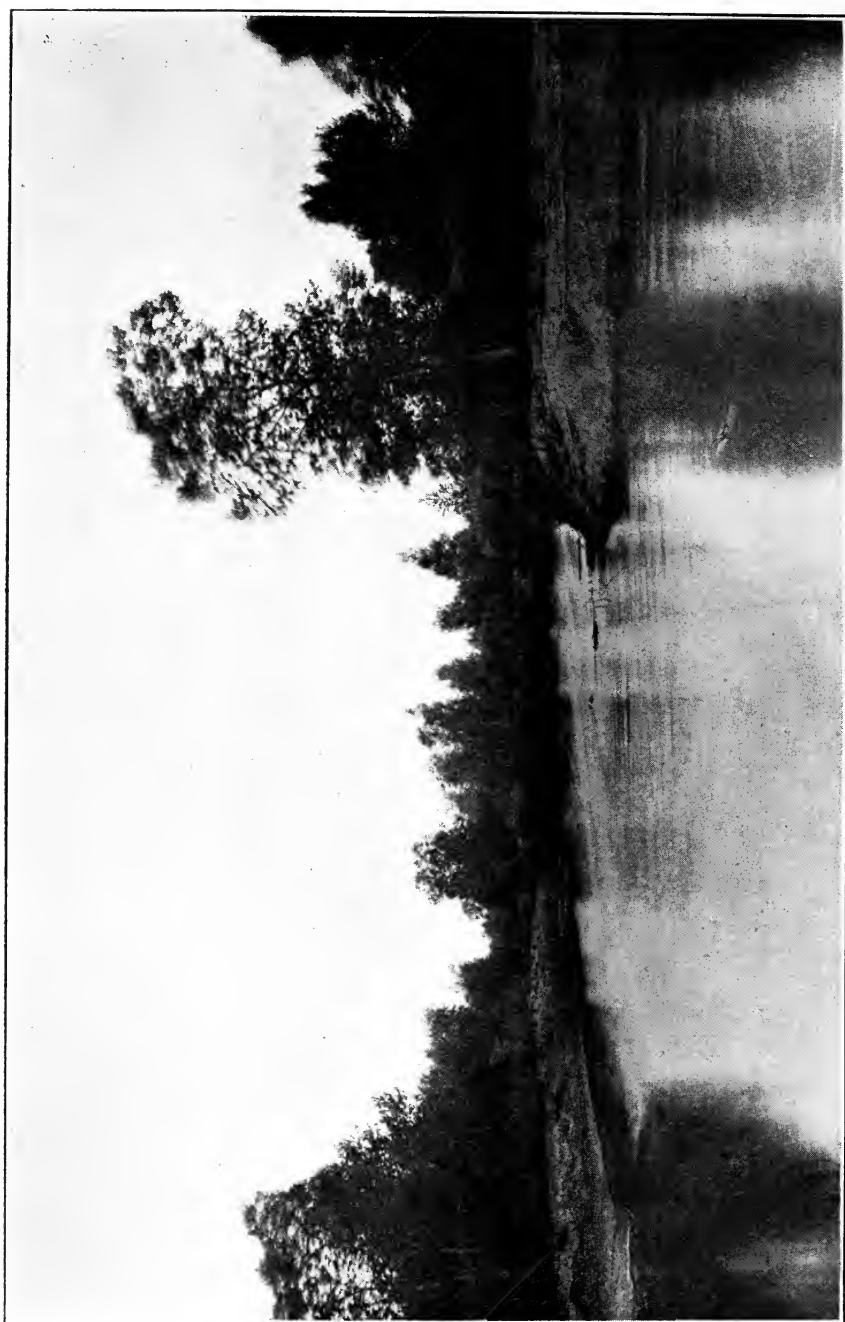
## ABUNDANT WATER SUPPLY: PERMANENT RIGHTS:



PURPLING ALFALFA

A PROSPECTIVE settler naturally makes many inquiries about the advantages of any contemplated locality; and the question of her water supply is one of the first, especially of a section belonging primarily to the irrigable belt. And the answer to any question regarding water—either for irrigation or for domestic uses—in Lyon County, is: *For all present needs and for an indeterminate future, Lyon County has a luxurious supply.*

Walker River, having its source in the ever-melting snows of the high Sierras, is a broad, deep stream which waters the entire southern part of Lyon County, or would, if its waters were properly conserved and distributed instead of going to waste as they now do. At certain seasons each year this river overflows its banks to such an extent that enormous quantities are wasted! During the recent past winter, from heavy rains in the valleys and melting snows from the mountains, mighty floods of



WALKER RIVER

water have swept on down to the lake—water which might have redeemed thousands of acres of land, which, in turn, might have fed thousands of people had it been conserved; *and at all times there is a profligate waste that should be overcome, and that soon!*

West Walker cuts down through Wilson's Canyon, where gorgeous scenery prevails, and there joins East Walker, which winds around Mason Valley farther to the south; these two streams form Walker River, which, from Nordyke, flows gracefully northward, supplying ranches all along its course, until it follows a natural curve of the mountains, bending away towards the south, where it finally loses itself in Walker Lake—a broad, deep sheet of water containing 231 square miles.

Carson River, another generous stream, traverses the more central part of the kite-shaped county, flowing down from the mountains in a general easterly course. It is to conserve the waters of this stream that the famous Truckee-Carson Reclamation Project of the United States Government has been constructed at a cost of many millions of dollars; this project contains the Lahontan Dam, which lies just outside of Lyon County, but which supplies a broad area with water through the Truckee Canal. Fully 20,000 acres of land draw water from the Carson River and the well-filled ditches tributary to it—all within this county.

Water rights in this county have all been adjudicated; there is no water litigation pending in the courts, and prices for its use are fair and reasonable; and the water is always to be had in proper seasons and amounts—something those dependent on rains cannot claim. These are all vital points for the prospective settler to investigate and remember! *All old questions regarding water-rights have long since been adjusted legally, to the entire satisfaction of all parties concerned.* And how many irrigable sections can truthfully claim as much?

Excellent drinking water is found at reasonable depths in all farming sections, while the artesian wells of Smith Valley are Nature's own plants to supply the thirsty land, as well as for domestic uses; these waters often supplement the waters of West Walker, which also supply this valley. Many farmers of this section depend wholly upon artesian flows, and are never disappointed; pipes ranging from two to eight inches in diameter carry water to nearby ditches which lead out to various fields; and the artesian area of this country is practically unsurveyed, as yet.

Within a few years, new Smith Valley entries supplied with water for the first time, have grown in value from almost free lands to over \$100 per acre; *and value is determined by how badly man wants any particular commodity!*

To increase land to this value, however, has required painstaking care and labor; and those who fail are—almost without exception—those who expect to reap a rich harvest within the proverbial fortnight; ones who have little or no conception of intensive farming or of adaptable seeds or soils; ones who, in other words, have no aptitude for practical farming and no excuse for having attempted it, only they thought it one thing a man might undertake without capital, tools or special preparation.

But this is no land of milk and honey, which, in reality, exists only between the covers of some books. This is a region where scientific management and scientific use of irrigation largely solve the farmers' problems; for it is now a well-known fact that too much water at certain times of plant growth is quite as fatal as too little at other times; and in a State where the natural precipitation is unequally distributed and is not to be wholly depended on—and where dry-farming has not overcome all difficulties—accurate knowledge of irrigation is quite indispensable. And, surprising as this may sound to some, these irrigable lands are uniformly more dependable, and their average yield is much higher than that of land dependent on natural and irregular precipitation!

### FARM PRODUCTS



SCENE AT WELLINGTON

**A**LFALFA easily leads as a farm product of Lyon County, being one of the richest and surest crops. A leading authority\* on agricultural Nevada says the following: "Alfalfa is the leading farm crop of Nevada, and fortunate is the region if this statement is true. Taking into consideration the certainty of the crop, the large yields per acre, the feeding value per ton, and the condition in which the soil is left after the growing of the crop, alfalfa undoubtedly ranks first amongst all of the farm crops. No Nevada farmer need be content with a yield of less than five tons to the acre, and seven tons is often made. Its great value in stock growing has not yet been realized, east or west, for there is in it a feeding value for growing animals which the chemist cannot measure, nor yet the feeder of market stock; for it makes more than meat. Where corn feeding makes fat, alfalfa gives growth; where corn feeding gradually impairs the vital functions, the feeding of alfalfa gives strength, vigor and constitution; where corn is best for market animals, alfalfa develops the breeding animal. When the Nevada farmer shall have coupled with a full knowledge the feeding value of this

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\*Prof. Gordon H. True, College of Agriculture, Nevada State University.



FIRST CROP OF ALFALFA, FERNLEY DISTRICT

great crop with the skill of our best stockmen in the breeding of pure-bred animals, then we may begin to talk about our agricultural development. The greatest of opportunities are ahead of the Nevada farmer!"

Every farmer knows that alfalfa is good hog feed, and here where alfalfa grows so abundantly, is a chance to further develop this branch of animal husbandry; for alfalfa turned into pork is an easy way of increasing the income, thus assuring the equivalent of a high price for the hay. And the other crops suited to pork raising are grown here with success, yet this is very sadly neglected. Mild winters and plenty of water are both important factors in stock raising, and both these are enjoyed in this county.

Alfalfa is sure money, requiring but little attention until haying time, when Indian labor guarantees its harvest while it contains the greatest amount of nutriment; besides this harvesting comes at seasons when heavy rains seldom fall to injure the crops.

This same eminent authority further says:

"The cereal grains, wheat, oats and barley, though most successfully grown here, are not produced in quantities sufficient to supply local demands. The average yield of wheat per acre in Nevada is double the average yield per acre in the United States; yet this average is only about one-half of that of the first-class ranchers here." This shows that the greater the farmer's skill in selecting seed-wheat, planting and irrigating, the greater will be the yield.



RANCHES ALONG CARSON RIVER, NEAR DAYTON

Mason Valley and the region immediately around Dayton, along the Carson River, are specially adapted to potato growing; here a peculiar soil lends itself to prolific crops, which, during the past five years, have averaged ten tons per acre, or an average cash value of \$200 per acre.

Buyers from Coast markets visit our valleys annually, contracting for entire crops; and there can be no doubt but that still uniformly higher prices might be procured if the farmers would more closely organize themselves into companies handling all the crops of the valleys, thus eliminating the commission of middlemen; but farmers, as a rule, are slow to adopt co-operative ideas. In time they will band themselves together as now do other industrial workers, and will then reap the just rewards for their labor.

Onions grow specially well in this soil, which is singularly favorable for their growth and maturity; larger crops might with profit be cultivated each year.

For fruit-growers who are willing to give intelligent thought to the selection of protected orchard sites and hardy varieties, and willing to fight untimely frosts—even as they are compelled to fight them in other eminently successful fruit-growing regions—an abundant harvest awaits. With no unusual care, and from an orchard planted only for family use, Lyon County carried off first prize at the State Fair held at Reno in 1913; and no more beautiful or finely flavored apples might be produced than these comparatively few.

*Lyon County has the soil, the water, and the climate, to grow—and she does grow in negligible quantities—tart, tasteful apples, most luscious berries of all varieties, and crisp, succulent vegetables of all kinds—all*



RANCH SCENE IN SMITH VALLEY



*of these unsurpassed even by California's ever-present supply which we find in our daily local markets; supplies produced by their energy, enterprise and economic outlook, and by our own lethargic indifference.*

During 1913 Lyon County produced over 100,000 pounds of excellent honey, clear and fine flavored; this all brought the highest market prices, some of it going to the extreme East; and this income was a pure by-product—the bees gathering their nectar from the myriads of wild flowers and multitudinous alfalfa fields; the cloudless but warm days of summer encouraging the bees to improve the shining hours. Owing to our mild winters, bees—in these mountain-encircled valleys—require the minimum of attention. The present output is meagre compared to what might be produced should the business be given fuller attention; and Lyon County owns more than one-fourth of all the bees in Nevada, and produces *more* than one-fourth of the honey.

## CREAMERIES: BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR INDUSTRY



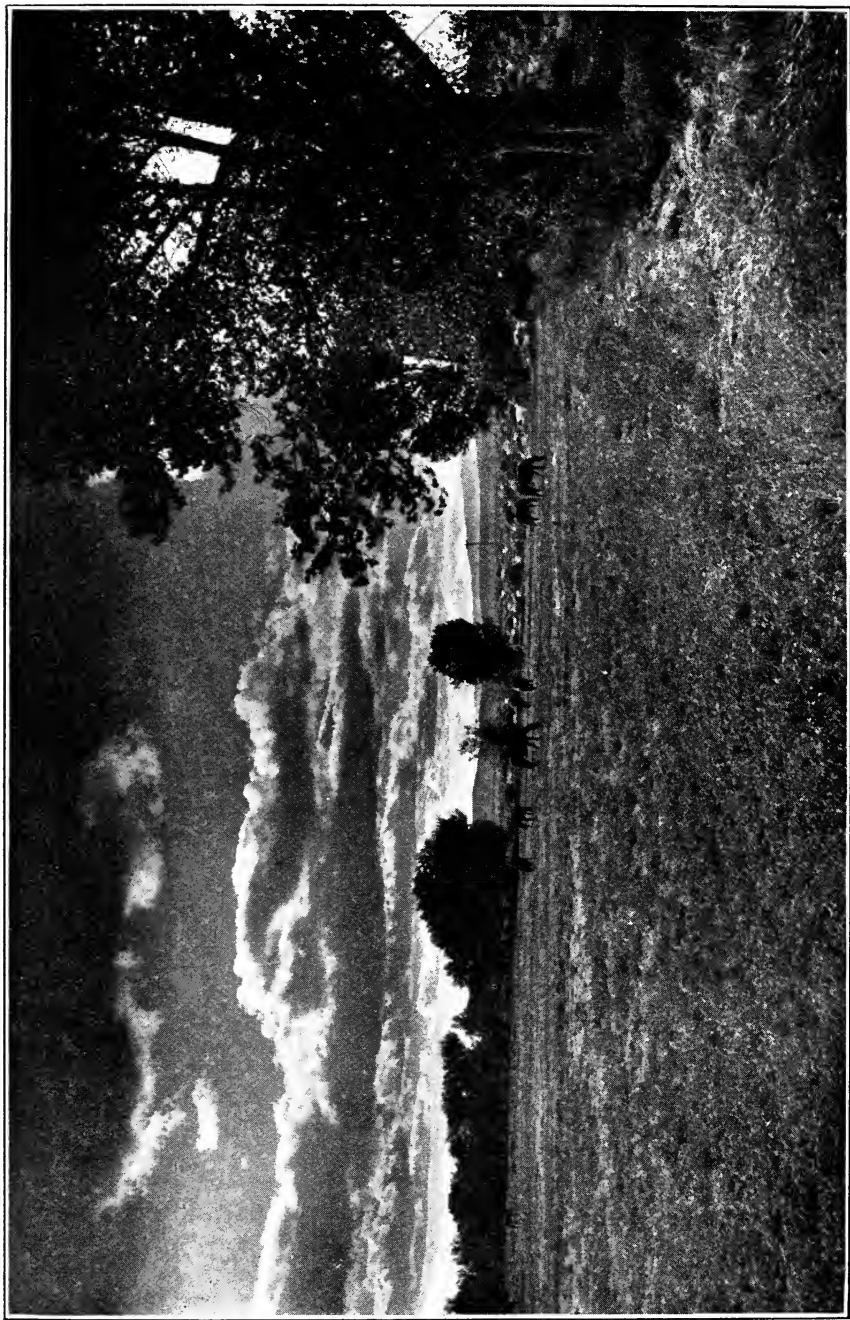
WINTER RESORT FOR CATTLE

THE dairies and creameries of this county are, as yet, very limited as to both output and sanitary equipment. In truth, it has been but recently that people have realized that perhaps no other single industrial feature of this county has so bright a future as has the dairying business.

In the Fernley District—noted for its rich alfalfa fields—as well as the fertile valley all along the Carson River, and anywhere in either Mason or Smith Valleys, chances for opening new and paying dairies are available for those possessing some capital and who understand the business. The wonderful climate, and the great extent of grazing and forage lands should put this county in the first ranks as a dairying section; the altitude, pure water, and excellent forage all being factors worthy serious thought.

The present creameries are wholly inadequate in filling the constantly increasing orders pouring in to them, thus showing that their scant supply is but a drop in the bucket of an ever-increasing demand.

Cattle diseases are practically unknown in these valleys, and an equable climate makes buildings of all sorts less expensive and less numerous here than those required in more rigorous climates where milch cows must be warmly housed almost half the year; and this temperate winter weather also reduces the amount of manual labor required to care for the animals during the months when dairy produce always brings its highest prices.



A TYPICAL SCENE ALONG CARSON RIVER

The late alfalfa crop affords pasturage throughout the winter when snow seldom falls in the valleys, and where it remains on the ground but a few days at longest when it does fall.

### *A TYPICAL WINTER RESORT FOR LIVESTOCK*

Thousands of cattle and sheep are driven or shipped into these valleys annually for the winter; the sheltered, sunshiny fields of forage, and the stacks of rich alfalfa, together with the pure water, making it an ideal winter resort for livestock. And these herds consume a vast amount of forage that need not be hauled out of the valley where it grew to find a ready market!

### *A FAVORABLE SPOT FOR RAISING FOWL*

Fowl-raising, which in some States has become nothing less than a most practical fad, is made profitable on a small scale by some people. But the fact that eggs and fowl are being shipped into all our camps and towns regularly, to be sold for high prices, does not speak too well for the thrift of our own people, who should know that no more favorable spot can be found in the whole Union for raising chickens, turkeys, and ducks.

Turkeys—always susceptible to too much moisture—thrive remarkably well here; and foreigners grasping this significant fact, are already acquiring tracts of land to be converted into poultry yards. *The highest market prices are always available for all kinds of poultry produce everywhere in Nevada.*

Nebraska farmers—working under multitudinous disadvantages compared to Nevada's—ship carloads of eggs and butter into this State regularly; into a State that not alone should produce her own supply, but should market large quantities for the Coast trade—a trade gradually increasing, too.

### *NEVADA FARMERS MUST WAKE UP*

Broadly speaking, the farmers of Lyon County—as well as those of Nevada generally—have failed to live up to their opportunities! Anxious to possess large tracts of land, they have uniformly neglected those details of development which alone assure a safe return on time and labor spent on smaller tracts; and ever clinging to the idea of *possessing* rather than *developing*, they are only too often loath to break up these larger holdings for closer settlement projects. But already the demands of the times have arrived, and the plan of colonization is being successfully fostered; the Colony Ranch of Smith Valley presents, ideally, results that may obtain where high-minded farmers enter a high-class vocation, with the single



LYON COUNTY TURKEYS

purpose of building up a typical community. This successful colony now prospers on land that a few years since was given over to grazing and sagebrush.

Too many of our large land holders seem not to have dreamed of the opportunities that agricultural industries hold; ones that sooner or later will be measured up by outsiders who will come in and make good—as many have already done of recent years. *And those already here must make good, eventually, or make way for those who will; for the fittest always survive in the long run.*

### WHAT LYON COUNTY NEEDS

But more farmers, more fruit-growers, more creameries and more chicken ranchers are needed; and, needless to say, some capital is likewise necessary with which to run these various enterprises—how much, depends largely upon the individual, and his native resources; and when all these things shall have been supplied there will be no further need why Lyon County's markets, Reno's markets, and even those farther away—shall not be supplied from our own fields, orchards and gardens; *for she has the essentials, soil, climate and water, and needs only the human element—the physical and personal—to transmute these essentials into the pleasing necessi-*

*ties of life, and—by so doing—enhance the workers' self-respect as yielders and builders in the great economic scheme of the community, meanwhile building for themselves homes that shall endure as heritages to their industry, their patience, and their ideals. And in this day of "back to the farm" there are thousands of people looking for just this chance to earn a home—a real home!*

It is a good thing to have obstacles to overcome in life; rough heights to climb, streams to ford: these efforts bring out the latent, the potential strength of any people. And while these valleys have their heights and depths, their rough and smooth aspects, yet their advantages are so great, and *the winning chances so sure*, that it makes the race pleasurable—not drudgery; for enough have already run the race to prove every step of its fair course! But even with these present obstacles a life here on a new selection is nothing compared to that of the early pioneers of the Middle West! They were far removed from all civilization; had no markets only those they themselves created, were without transportation and the advantages of social and educational privileges; yet today we hear pessimistic complaints that those early settlers had a better chance than this generation. There are better chances lying idle right here in Lyon County today than our ancestors had in the Middle West!



A CONTENTED FLOCK

### MINING: A SISTER INDUSTRY TO AGRICULTURE



ENTRANCE TO SUTRO TUNNEL

**B**UT Lyon County is not alone rich in agricultural advantages, for these fertile watered valleys are welded together by veins and pockets of rich ore deposit—chains of unbroken wealth. During 1913 the mineral wealth of the county aggregated many millions of dollars, the mining properties paying substantial sums into the county treasury in taxes.

Copper ore predominates, but gold and silver are found in several districts. New mines are regularly being opened and worked on paying bases; and there is no doubt but that many of the properties now being developed—some slowly on account of lack of finances—may prove as lavish in the largesse of their gifts, some day, as others have already done; those few which have recently earned comfortable fortunes for their stockholders. In these days the mines are exploited—not the people!

Expert engineers say there is no reason to disbelieve that much of the large area of unprospected mountains may contain treasures as valuable as those already found in the district; those few that have made The Lyon County Copper Belt famous amongst mining men.

But people think in herds as a rule! so it is not surprising to learn that most of the systematic prospecting and developing has been largely confined to the promising hills surrounding Mason and Smith Valleys—particularly the ridge between these two—and to the old Dayton-Silver City properties, which have been steady producers for more than half a century; those mines which helped to make so many millionaires whose money finally rehabilitated a wrecked city of our nation! For it has been Nevada's wealth, largely, that has rebuilt San Francisco!

Even a quarter of a century ago, the prophecy that any part of Nevada might ever prove a Mecca for agriculturists had sounded mythological; and another quarter of a century will doubtless prove the assertion here made: *that Lyon County is still in her infancy regarding both agriculture and mining.*

Two quartz mills are steadily operating at Silver City, while aerial trams carry ore to a big plant in Dayton; a 200-ton cyanide plant near Dayton is nearing completion, and The Blue Stone Mines near Mason reduces its own ores.



NEVADA-DOUGLAS MINES AT LUDWIG

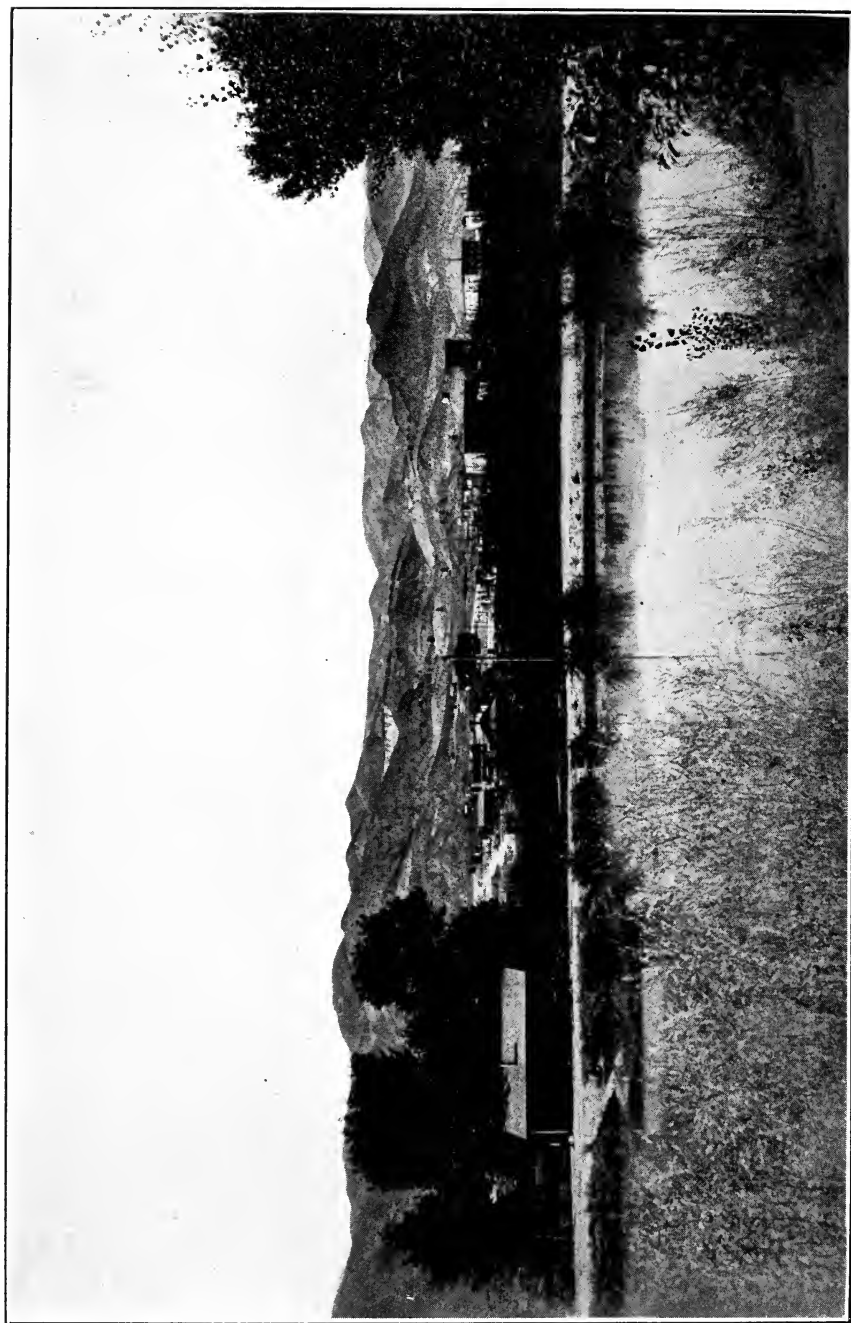
### *BIG MASON VALLEY SMELTER AT THOMPSON*

All mines of this section have their ores smelted at their very doors, so to speak; for the huge smelter at Thompson is accessible to the whole district.

During the first eleven months of 1913 this Mason Valley Smelter reduced 210,000 tons of ore to metal: 111,655 ounces being silver, 9069 ounces gold, and the remainder—13,217,545 *pounds of copper!* This data is from the official records of the company up to November 30th, 1913.



DISTANT VIEW OF MASON VALLEY SMELTER AT THOMPSON



MASON, PRETTILY LOCATED AT THE BASE OF DIGNIFIED MOUNTAINS



The smelter is situated at the northern terminus of The Nevada Copper Belt Railroad, and near the main line of the Southern Pacific, with which direct connections are made; it is located on an eminent height near a natural gateway in the hills. This affords a draught for poisonous fumes from its high funnel, which, therefore, do not interfere with the growing crops of nearby valleys. At this smelter ore is reduced to pure metal, thus saving unnecessary cost of transportation as well as giving employment to many more men.

This thrifty mining industry does more than produce ore and give employment to the actual miners, though! It creates a market for the agricultural products of the surrounding valleys, and develops a healthful atmosphere in all contiguous territories.

A leaching plant is to be installed at The Nevada-Douglas Mines of Ludwig; this will insure the paying out on low-grade ores heretofore ignored. The installation of leaching plants throughout the district will no doubt greatly increase the total output; but mine owners were loath to experiment until leaching plants in other States had proved that similar copper ores might be treated successfully as well as economically; in fact, the tests have been made on our own ores, and the results have the approval of the most expert authorities who acknowledge that leaching is no longer in the experimental stage, but is fast becoming a part of up-to-date equipment in all similar districts.

Around the smelter, Thompson, a thriving and cosmopolitan community has grown up; the employees and officials of the company constituting the majority of its inhabitants who have been assembled from many States and climes.

But mining, like farming, requires a peculiar and special kind of scientific knowledge to bring about ultimate success in any region; and it requires capital—capital in both money and patience—as well as knowledge; and in the degree that these essentials—expert knowledge, capital and patience—are brought to The Copper Belt of Lyon County, just in that degree will success come from working her sure but hidden treasures.

### *OTHER NATURAL ADVANTAGES*

Lyon County has three separate groups of medicinal springs: The Wabuska Hot Springs, between Wabuska and Thompson; Hind's Hot Springs of Smith Valley, and Wilson's Springs of Mason Valley; these would doubtless become popular spas, sought after by thousands each year, were they located abroad! According to analytical reports, as well as the opinions of local physicians who have tested their curative powers, these mineral springs are assets to the community, and are bound to become more



WALKER RIVER

and more popular as the population increases and as their economic value shall be more thoroughly appreciated by the well and ill alike: *for this is an age when it is deemed wiser to keep well than to get well!*

A water-power grist-mill at Nordyke turns out first-class flour, and is only hampered by a lack of wheat and other grains,

which, in this favorable soil, should be cultivated far more extensively—especially winter wheat, which has, as yet, received no attention from our farmers.

A large Gypsum Mill near Mound House converts the raw gypsum of our own hills into commercial cements of all kinds; that section, and the Ludwig District containing large bodies of virgin stock which is sometimes shipped to other sections for fertilizing material—where heavy soil, in limited areas, prevents proper seepage.

### EXCELLENT TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

With all these varied, abundant, and superior advantages, Lyon County has the added one of splendid transportation facilities. She has 147 miles of railway within her own borders, together with auto-stage and freight lines connecting all remoter points.

The main line of the S. P. R. R. crosses the county from east to west, a branch of this line leading off from Hazen to Goldfield and Los Angeles via Wabuska; another branch of the S. P. R. R. extends from Churchill to Mound House, while The Virginia-Truckee and



A DAIRYING SCENE IN MASON VALLEY--

Carson City R. R. reaches from Mound House to Carson. These lines bring the Coast within a few hours of our valleys, and afford unrivaled accommodations to our passengers.

The Nevada Copper-Belt R. R., the main artery of trade for both Mason and Smith Valleys as well as for Bodie, Aurora, Bridgeport and Wellington, farther on, has a line reaching from Thompson, via Wabuska—where it connects with all traffic on the S. P. R. R.—on to Yerington, Mason, Nordyke, Hudson and Ludwig, its southern terminus.

The Nevada Copper-Belt is fully equipped with up-to-date rolling stock, including both locomotive trains and motor cars; it pours a constant stream of economic supplies in to all the surrounding valleys, supplying mining camps, towns and ranches along its scenic course with every convenience, and, in turn, carrying back its flood of ore to be smelted at Thompson.

The Nevada Copper-Belt has its main offices and roundhouse at Mason, a city prettily located at the base of dignified mountains—and it requires a multitude of officials and mechanics to carry on the work of this active system.

## LYON COUNTY CITIES AND TOWNS



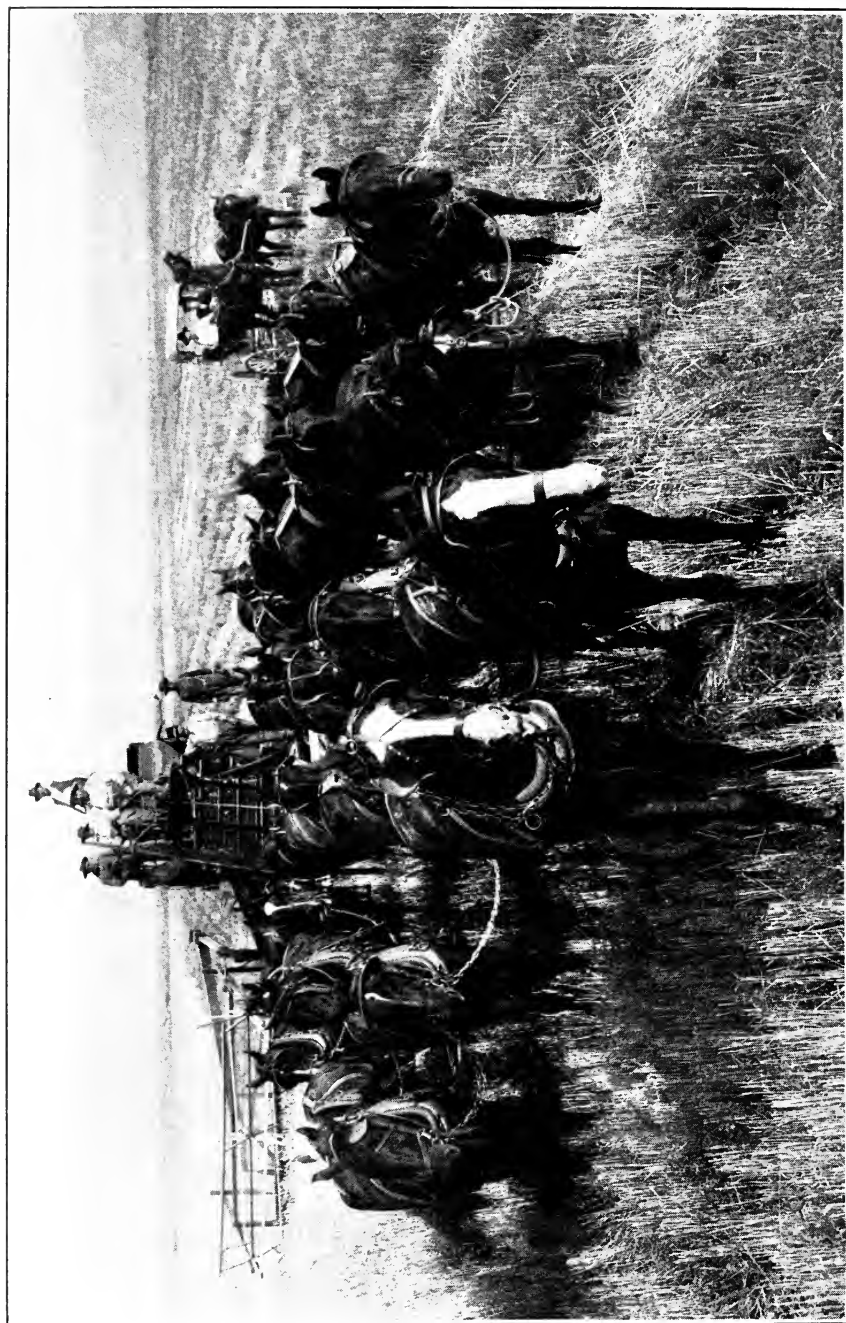
WABUSKA HOT SPRINGS

**M**ASON, overlooking the Walker River towards the east, is the natural outgrowth of the necessity for homes—chiefly for mining folk—near their properties. In but a few years it has grown into a modern city having a commodious hotel, modern \$15,000 school building of latest design, church, bank, theater, drug store, mercantile houses of

various sorts, garages, steam laundry, and other legitimate enterprises; besides these, it has an excellent hospital—fully equipped—public recreation grounds, newspaper, and good city water system; and, like all the towns of the county, it has electricity for both domestic and municipal lighting and uses generally.

### *Ludwig*

is essentially a mining camp—thrifty, prosperous and cosmopolitan! The Nevada-Douglas Mining Co. has extensive works there, and these, together



HARVESTING WHEAT IN LYON COUNTY

with The Gypsum Plant, afford employment for many men. Comfortable residences, adequate offices, modern school house, social hall, and a variety of commercial houses are to be found in this typical Nevada camp, which, after all, does not differ in personnel from any other cosmopolitan community, either East or West. Electricity is used practically in the mines, as well as for all other possible purposes.

### *Dayton*

and Silver City, amongst the oldest towns of the State, still bear proud evidences of their historical past! They are now thriving places with good schools—Dayton has a High school—churches, stores and halls. The old mines are still steadily producing—those mines that one day served to put Nevada on the map and in the Union, and to succor the Nation with their wealth in the time of her direst need; for all Nevadans are proud of her distinction of being “Battle Born.”

### *Fernley,*

which stands a good show of becoming a railroad center, is now the leading town of a fertile district which is watered by the famous Truckee-Carson Project; while the district is new, it is already proving its rich possibilities.

### *Wabusha,*

the junction, is an active railroad town lying at the foot of Mason and Smith Valleys, and has all necessary commercial enterprises represented; it has good schools, hotels, and a roomy union station.

### *Wellington,*

a dreamy country village, lies basking in the tranquil lap-of-plenty in the very center of Smith Valley; and even this place has its school, its social hall, its telephone station and other conveniences.

### *Simpson,*

a new town of this same valley, promises to furnish the surrounding ranches with good service in every detail.

### *Yerington,*

the county seat—lying in the very heart of Mason Valley—is an old, old town, but lately regenerated. It was a long step, indeed, from the



A STREET SCENE IN YERINGTON

"Pizen Switch" that was, to the Yerington *that is*; but it promises to be a much shorter step to the Yerington that is to be! It has a \$50,000 courthouse of good architectural design, one of the most modernly built and best equipped public schools of the State, a county High school, churches, bank, county hospital for indigents, thoroughly modern drug stores, garages, hotels, cafes, livery barns and general stores; also an ice plant and bottling works.

Yerington's streets are tree-lined, and cosy homes and grassy lawns lend an inviting air to its surroundings; substantial concrete and brick buildings predominate, and others are being built to take the place of older frame ones; a new Odd Fellows' hall is being constructed, and other improvements are going on. Modern sewage and water systems add greatly to the health conditions, which, owing to the climate and its excellent drainage, are always of a superior quality. Electricity is generally used.

All these towns have their halls, their secret orders, their social and cultural clubs, their churches of various denominations, and their substantial public improvements; and the professions are well represented along all lines.

## SCHOOLS — PUBLIC UTILITIES — CLIMATE



DIGGING POTATOES

NEVADA'S School System is one of her chief causes for real pride. The State Normals are unable to fill the increasing demand for well-trained teachers, and outsiders of successful experience are welcomed into a school system of exceptionally high standard, one for which no apologies need be made. There are 23 school districts in Lyon County, and comfortable buildings are to be found everywhere. Nevada laws provide that a school must be maintained wherever five or more pupils of school age are to be found, and this law is enforced.

There is a healthful community spirit evidenced throughout the whole county, and a trace of that old comradeship of the real West which is, alas, too fast dying out elsewhere! One may find about any kind of society he seeks, and the choice is left to the individual. Society has its strata here as in other States, but the substantial majority of the people are wholesome, generous, charitable and very self-reliant. They are broad-minded, industrious and hospitable, as a rule. Their homes and their manners are as refined and conventional as those found in the best communities of other places, and their recreations are wholesome and normal.

All towns, camps and ranches are related both by local and by long-distance telephones—and long-distance with Coast cities and with Nevada metropolises is an advantage not to be under-estimated; these telephones serve as a sympathetic system between the different communities, bringing a sparse population in closer touch.

All electrical power in these valleys is carried across the State from the Truckee River plant, and is cheap and sure; much of the work of the mines, smelters and mills is performed by hydro-electric power; streets of all towns and of even mining camps are lighted from this same inexhaustible supply.

Rural post routes are maintained along all the stage lines, and present parcel-post privileges make ranching seem almost suburban, with the added attraction of living in the country.



PUBLIC SCHOOL, YERINGTON

### *THE NEW OUTLOOK ON LIFE*

We are fortunate in living in this era of new thinking, new living, new hoping! Those ever behind in the race of life insist that this era is only approaching; but it is not approaching—it is here; we are in the very midst of it! And so subtly did it progress that the gravest thinkers scarcely realized its advent; but they were not slow in recognizing its presence!

In this new era, pleasant surroundings, congenial occupations, and *A Fair Chance to Win*, are vital points to reckon on in selecting a permanent homesite—after the essentials of soil, climate and water have been considered by those looking for farm lands, and the other elements established for those seeking other lines of occupation. A home is a place wherein one expects to spend years in active work—not drudgery; work that shall lead towards the fulfillment of hopes often long deferred; the accumulating of wealth which, economically, is the satisfying of normal wants.

*Lyon County with her still available lands, her multitudinous opportunities along all lines of industrial growth, her unprospected mineral lands, her unexcelled climate and HER FAIR CHANCE TO WIN, promises fulfillment to the honest, industrious seeker after a real home.*

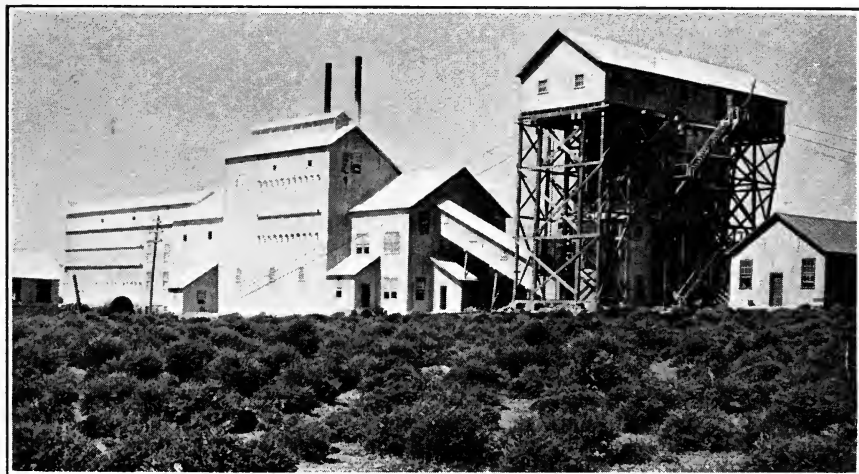


## YOSEMITE PARK &amp; LAKE TAHOE NEAR BY

Wholesome recreations are abundant here, *and play is an important factor of happiness.* Deer, grouse, sagehen, quail and duck shooting are to be enjoyed in season, while trout and other fish abound in the streams; these afford Lyon County her due share of healthful sports, and many savory dishes as well.

Lake Tahoe, on the line between California and Nevada, is one of the world's beauty spots! This Geneva of America—28 miles long and 15 miles wide—is surrounded by cosy hotels, villas, private residences of palatial splendor, and scattering brown bungalows almost hidden from view amongst giant pines that climb from the blue, blue of the crystal-clear water to the dazzling white of the snows far above. And all this picture framed in with mighty mountains! Steam launches and motor-boats drift about on its sapphire surface like big white swans enjoying a sunning! And this lake—over 6000 feet above sea level and fast becoming a national resort—lies within a few hours by auto of any part of Lyon County; and it may be reached conveniently by rail via Reno and Truckee.

Yosemite National Park lies over towards the southwest less than 100 miles distant. And who in our Nation needs to have her wonders extolled? Auto and stage lines into the Park, and auto privileges through the park, are grants of recent laws, and will no doubt be enjoyed by many Nevadans who have a well-earned reputation for enjoying sane sports in a wholesome way.



GYPSUM PLANT NEAR MOUND HOUSE, NEVADA



WILSON'S CANYON, SHOWING WALKER RIVER AND NEVADA  
COPPER BELT RAILWAY

## PLAIN FACTS FOR PLAIN PEOPLE

Notwithstanding all these favors of Nature, though, there is an ever-present class—in any locality—who seem to expect to find the Promised Land come true at last; people who expect to get out of an undertaking much more than they take, or put *into* it. Such people fail to appreciate that the secret of right living is in learning how much one may get *in* a living or an undertaking! and one gets just as much *in it*, as *he gives to it*—no more, no less; for the laws of give and take, of pay and earn, of positive and negative, are interminably at work here as elsewhere.

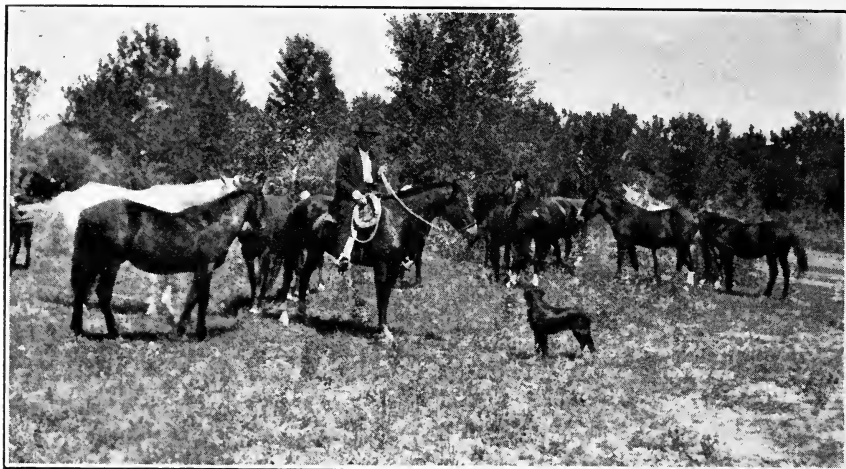
On a new selection, in fact, on a farm of any sort, farming implements must be had, horses bought and buildings provided. Men who would not attempt dairying, bee-raising, milling or mining without some special knowledge, training and equipment, sometimes complain that farming cannot be made to pay if they must equip themselves with implements, and study how to farm. But Lyon County has neither room nor welcome for such farmers, usually utter failures themselves and placing the blame of their misfortunes on the country, instead of on their own unpreparedness. But there are good lands to be had from honest dealers at reasonable prices; and the door of opportunity still stands open here to those willing to accept more than fair returns for all expended thought, endeavor and labor.

## UNEXCELLED CLIMATE

Nevada's climate alone should commend her to the world—were this her sole attractive feature; for her altitude—averaging about 4000 feet above sea level—and her location, guarantees cooler summers and milder winters than is found in States where greater humidity prevails; and the fact that all of Lyon County's rich agricultural lands are in protected valley-beds, assures the settler of comparative freedom from winds that sometimes sweep over other sections of the State. The continuous sunshine, pure air—the healthful breath from off her pine-clad hills, and sage-covered buttes—makes this part of the State Nature's own sanatorium; one which has not yet been discovered by the army of invalids ever in search of health; and one is impressed on every side at the sight of healthy, buxom children, robust maturity, and contented and well-preserved old age, alike enjoying the glorious and balmy days of Autumn—with their sunsets of burnished splendor, the mild zest of Winter—with its occasional fleecy snows, the bursting, budding Spring of the valleys, and the serene, full-blown Summers of plenty!

To have lived around the cycle of the seasons in Lyon County is but to pronounce it a most ideal climate *at all seasons*.

To those who have traveled extensively at home—and even abroad—intelligently comparing the vital features of each, Lyon County appeals



AT THE CLOSE OF A QUIET DAY

strongly; especially if they have lived here long enough to grasp the significance of her wonderful economic resources, and sampled the invigorating benefits of her incomparable climate—not judged and condemned it from the rear platform of a train moving across the State's most barren wastes at a mile a minute.

And to those who know her valleys intimately, come, to the mind's eye at the mere mention of her name, panoramic views of changing vistas of green and golden poplars, unending fields of purpling alfalfa, ripening wheat and laden ore trains; valleys which spread out like maps done in Nature's choicest splashes of color; fields in richest livery indicating plentiful abundance; willow-bordered rivers that sparkle and wind away on their missions of growth; bright days of almost perpetual sunshine; friends, contented, healthful and happy! And over all bends a cobalt sky where willowy plumes of white clouds float off to mingle with the fleecy snows of the far Sierras, whose summits stand like faithful sentinels keeping eternal guard over Lyon County—the land both of promise and of fulfillment.





## INFORMATION

Further information will gladly be furnished inquirers by the County Commissioners of Lyon County,

A. H. BARLOW,  
*Mason, Nevada*

C. E. WEDERTZ,  
*Wellington, Nevada*

M. J. KING,  
*Silver City, Nevada*

or by Secretaries of Lyon County Commercial and Mason Valley Promotion Clubs, or by bank and railroad officials.



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